

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01921 230800Z

11

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-06

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 /085 W

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R 221733Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1365

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SOFIA 1921

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, OTRA, ETRD, BU

SUBJECT: U.S. MOHAIR TRADE TEAM VISIT TO BULGARIA

DEPT PASS PETTIPAW USOA/FAS

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE BULGARIAN PRODUCTION LEVEL OR TRADE FLOW OF MOHAIR, ALTHOUGH BULGARIA HAS IMPORTED MOHAIR FROM AUSTRIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN PAST. IMPORTATION, HOWEVER, IS FRAGMENTED AMONG NUMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTO), NONE OF WHOM APPEAR TO BE VERY ACTIVE IN PURCHASING. FTO INDUSTRIALIMPORT, WHICH HAS CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRADE OF RAW MATERIALS FOR CLOTHING HAS INFORMED US THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BOUGHT MOHAIR IN PAST, THEY ARE NOT BUYING AT PRESENT. FTO INTER-COMMERCE WHICH REPORTEDLY HANDLED MOHAIR TRANSACTIONS IN PAST ALSO INFORMED US THEY ARE NOT BUYING AT PRESENT. FTO RAZNOIZNOS WHICH HANDLES POTPOURRI OF CONSUMER AND OTHER GOODS INFORMS US IT MAY HAVE LIMITED INTEREST.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01921 230800Z

2. AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, NO FIGURES AVAILABLE ON BULGARIAN PRODUCTION OF OR TRADE IN MOHAIR. ACCORDING TO STATISCHESKI GODISHNIK, HOWEVER, IN 1972 (LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE), BULGARIA IMPORTED 1397 TONS OF WOOL, ITS PRIMARY SUPPLIERS BEING THE USSR (782 TONS) AND MONGOLIA (352 TONS). NO WOOL EXPORTS LISTED. BULGARIAN PRODUCTION FIGURE FOR WASHED WOOL IN 1972 GIVEN AS 10,694 TONS, AND ELSEWHERE IN GODISHNIK IT STATES THAT SOME 23,000 TONS OF WOOL WERE BOUGHT BY STATE ENTERPRISES FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR THAT YEAR.

3. SUGGEST ABOVE BE CONSIDERED BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION ON ADVISABILITY OF TRIP. HOWEVER, WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT AND FIND NOVEMBER 17-20 WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT TIME FOR GROUP TO VISIT BULGARIA. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED TWO DOUBLES AT GRAND HOTEL SOFIA FOR THAT PERIOD. CONFIRMATION IS EXPECTED SHORTLY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP IF TRIP TO BULGARIA STILL CONTEMPLATED AND IF SO CONFIRM DATES.
HERZ

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